

If those democratic silver orators who cry out lustily for free coinage of silver will explain how it is that when the price of silver can not be maintained when the government is compelled to purchase \$54,000,000 per year, they expect it to rise under free coinage, when the government will not be compelled to purchase an ounce, those who can not see so far into a millstone as they will be compelled to admit that there is something besides pure demagoguery in their arraignment of the republican party for its failure to pass a free coinage bill.

Commissioner Morgan reports great progress in the right direction on the Indian question, which is equivalent to saying that we are getting the reservation lands away from the noble red man at a rapid rate. During the past year 13,000,000 acres have been ceded and arrangements nearly perfected for 4,500,000 acres more; but as this will still leave nearly 100,000,000 acres in the possession of the aborigine, the good work must go on. Other commissioners must be appointed, other treaties made, other chiefs bribed, other specious promises made, until the Indian is reduced to the same pitiable condition as that of the ordinary American citizen, who owns no land that he has not bought, inherited or worked for. There is but one settlement of the Indian question, and that is to make him a responsible human being, amenable to the law and protected by the law the same as any ordinary white man. Gradually the problem is being solved in this direction, and when it is thus settled, the Indian will survive or perish as his ability to compete with the common, every day citizen of the United States in the ordinary battle of life shall develop.

Here is "a pretty howdy do!" Citizens of the United States threatening to put their vessels under the British flag upon the theory that they can secure the privilege of destroying seals in Behring sea that is denied them while sailing beneath the ensign of their own country. It is not true that the British flag covers more privileges in that region than the stars and stripes. Neither of them ought to protect the brutal and wanton destruction of seals that was witnessed there the past season, and, happily, the indications are that another year they will not. The shooting of female seals in the water, either when they are about to give birth to their young or when, having left their young on shore, they are searching for food, is not only cruel in the extreme, but, as not one in six of those shot is captured, is wontonly destructive. It is no wonder there has been such a remarkable diminution in their numbers this year. Two or three more such seasons would practically exterminate them. Whether or not England, Russia and the United States unite upon a joint measure for protection, it can not be admitted that any citizen of the United States can gain any legal privilege in Behring sea under the British flag that is denied him as an American.

One of the village customs of Portland is that of permitting horses to stand in the street unsecured. Every few days is heard the rattle of a runaway horse or team, the shouts of excited or frightened people, the crash of collision, and expressions of sympathy for some maimed animal or injured human being. It is utterly absurd that this thing should be permitted to continue. Other cities, those that really make good their claim to be such, do not endure it on the flimsy plea that it is too much bother to tie a horse, and that an ordinance requiring it could not be enforced because the city is "too large." The larger it grows the more will be the necessity of stopping this careless custom. Rings in the sidewalks to which horses can be secured, and weights carried in the vehicle, are ready means to overcome the objections of the lazy man. If the police would drive every horse to the police station that they see standing unsecured, and it cost the owner \$5.00 to redeem his animal, it would not take long to break up the custom. Let the council pass an ordinance to that effect and a few days will settle the question. There may be nothing in it, which, probably, is one of the reasons why it is neglected, but it is one of her village habits that Portland must put behind her.

From all that can be learned there has been a disastrous failure to properly operate the Clackamas hatchery this season, evidently growing out of the failure of the state commissioner and the United States fish commission representative who has charge of the work to properly co-operate. The state commissioner lays the blame upon the government commission because repairs that should have been made in May were postponed until July, as there were no funds available. This sounds well; but when it is learned that these repairs amounted to but \$200 in all and could have been made in a few days, and that the money could have been raised by private subscription had the commissioner undertaken to do so, and been prompted by a patriotic desire to actually accomplish something for the good of the state, it does not sound so "all killin'" well after all. There are other revelations of friction in the management that emphasize the well known adage that "too many cooks spoil the broth." The result is that instead of the ten or twelve million fish that ought to have been hatched, only about one-third that number have been produced. The state of Oregon should

maintain the hatchery itself, and not only this one but others farther inland, and it should appropriate enough money so that when the commissioner has drawn his salary there will be just a little left to do the work with.

There is a little order beginning to be evolved from the chaos of the World's Fair question. The press of the state, almost unanimously, has expressed the opinion that Oregon must do more and better than was ever before attempted in her behalf. The indications point to the substitution of the scene depicted on the last page for the one given a few weeks ago. The world's fair train, laden with the unrivaled products of Oregon, drawn by the locomotive "Progress," and with a full head of steam supplied by an adequate appropriation, will clear the track of all obstructions and make a triumphal journey to Chicago in 1893. The people are becoming aroused on this subject, and they demand that the state shall be properly represented at Chicago, and that her interests shall be placed in the hands of competent persons representing the enterprise and energy of every section. Neither politics nor sectionalism should find a place for the sole of its foot in this matter.

Two movements looking toward practical accomplishment have been set on foot, and it is to be hoped that something will result from them. Mr. T. F. Osborn, president of both the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the Oregon Board of Commerce, has appointed a committee of the latter body to consider the question and devise some means of securing the object sought. This committee will meet on the eleventh of November. On the same day a committee of fifteen of the most active members of the Oregon Press association, who have been appointed by the president and who represent every section of the state, will assemble in Portland to consider the attitude the press should assume and what measures it should take to further the project of securing a proper representation of the state at Chicago. From the deliberations of two such bodies, one representing the press of the state and one the business of its chief cities, something practical ought to result. Both of these are but preliminary gatherings, and the gentlemen composing them fully realize that whatever is done in the form of a permanent organization must be done by the people of every section of the state. It is to secure this kind of action that these committees are taking initiatory steps.

Too much stress can not be laid upon the necessity of an organized effort and an outlined plan of operations before the legislature meets. One who gives the least thought to the subject, or who has had the least experience in legislative ways, must recognize the fact that no large appropriation can be secured unless both the necessity for it and the plan of its expenditure are laid before the senate and house in a comprehensible and convincing way. A large sum of money can not be secured unless the legislators know what is to be done with it and have full confidence in the persons who are to expend it. This confidence can be secured best by an organization of men of all shades of political opinion and representing all sections of the state, and, as nearly as possible, all forms of industry. If an organization of that kind can be formed, and can present to the legislature a general outline of operations that is both sensible and comprehensive, it can secure all the money necessary to carry it out; but with no plan digested, and with the spending of the money left to the uncertain agencies to be selected by legislative election or gubernatorial appointment, with all the possibilities and probabilities of political manipulation that accompany such methods of selection, very little can be hoped for. Politics should be rigidly excluded from this movement, and the only way to do so is to organize a purely unpolitical and representative association before it is taken into the political maelstrom at Salem.

TO IRENE.

You say, Irene, that we must wait apart;
That patiently, beset with doubts and fears,
I must toil on for many weary years
And long to clasp thee to my aching heart,
And yearn to feel your tender, loving kiss,
Or harken to your voice—the voice that cheers
My soul; that I must watch through blinding tears
For one far day—one golden day of bliss.
Until that time how dark the world to me!
On ebon wings the rushing midnight blast
O'er unforgotten graves will shriek and moan,
While I, adrift on Life's wild, raging sea,
A storm-tossed man, will hope, ah! hope at last
To cry with joy, "Irene, my love, my own!"

HERBERT BASHFORD.